



HANDOUTS

Long-Term Care System Task Force

September 16, 2004

Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging Presentation

DISCLAIMER

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Iowa, through the leadership of legislators sitting on this task force, through the Governor and department staff, through agencies and associations focused on improving the lives of older Iowans and persons with disabilities, through the voices and actions of advocates, and most importantly through consumers, have been working to rebalance the long term care delivery system in Iowa for over a decade. We can be proud of the progress we have made but also recognize that we must continue our efforts to better meet the needs of the persons who depend upon a quality long term care system and to utilize limited funding most efficiently and effectively. The Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging or I4A applauds you for agreeing to serve on this task force to focus on enhanced efforts.

Since the early 1970s, area agencies on aging nationwide have collectively focused on three key areas to ensure that the nation's elders enjoy a quality life: (1) advocacy; (2) coordination of services; and (3) ensuring choice of services received, place to reside, and provider of supports. Based upon those three focus areas, the concept of the Case Management for Frail Elders was passed into law through legislation by some of you seated at this table. In the early 1980s, the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs and Iowa Department of Human Services joined together to apply

for and to receive authorization to offer services through the Title 19 frail elderly waiver. Then once again, recognizing the importance of home and community based services and addressing gaps in services and needs of older persons, the Iowa legislature passed the Senior Living Trust Fund plan and authorized funding through Iowa's area agencies on aging to see that these needs were met. You will find that we have achieved all goals associated with these three key Iowa programs: CMPFE, frail elderly waiver, and Senior Living Trust fund usage.

We stand ready to work with you as instrumentalities of the state to meet new identified goals to enhance the continuum of long term care in Iowa. We support the concept of a Universal Assessment or Universal Access program and believe we are well-positioned to carry out that function. As part of a nationwide network of area agencies on aging charged with providing services consistently under the Older Americans Act and through state statute, we are uniquely positioned in all 99 counties of the state, under existing laws that would easily allow us to carry out this function. We are required to provide Information and Assistance as a core service through the Older Americans Act and to establish "focal points" of service and information access, therefore, we each maintain a database of existing services that are available on the web as well

as through one-on-one counseling at each of our agencies. Again, this seems to be a core component of “access” to the long term care delivery system.

The area agencies on aging = collaborators. We depend upon our community partners that include nursing homes, public health agencies, home care agencies, transportation providers, legal services providers, etc. to carry out our mission. We believe you would find the majority of those partners to agree that we keep the senior and their right to make their own choices as the centerpiece of all our programs. We believe that to be a strength and hope you will utilize that and us to assist you in your efforts.